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In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A portable organizer device comprising:

a housing sized to be hand-held;

a display within said housing sized to correspond to the palm of a hand; and

circuitry within said housing implementing:

a calendar database;

a communication link configured to access an assignment record on an institutional system, the assignment record describing an assignment characterized by an estimated duration or a completion date;

a user interface utilizing said display configured to receive a user schedule constraint;

a sensor responsive to a unique identifying signal from an identification tag attachable to an article and operable to emit said unique identifying signal; and

an agent configured to create a calendar entry for the accessed assignment record in response to the user schedule constraint, and the estimated duration or the completion date, and to initiate a notification on the user interface in response to said unique identifying signal.

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2. (Original) The portable organizer device of claim 1, wherein the communication link is further configured to access an identification of an article required to perform the assignment, the agent further configured to associate the identification to the calendar entry.

Claims 3-4 are canceled.

5. (Currently amended) The portable organizer device of claim 2 3, wherein the agent is further configured to initiate the notification in response to a comparison of the said unique identifying signal and the article identification associated with the calendar entry.

6. (Currently amended) The portable organizer device of claim 5, wherein the agent is further configured to initiate a missing article notification in response to not sensing the said sensed unique identifying signal associated with the calendar entry.

7. (Original) The portable organizer of device of claim 5, wherein the agent is further configured to initiate an excess article notification in response to sensing another unique identifying signal having no association with the calendar entry.

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8. (Currently amended) The portable organizer device ~~of claim~~ of claim 1, wherein the user schedule ~~restraint~~ constraint identifies available time blocks in the calendar database.

9. (Original) The portable organizer of claim 8, wherein the agent is further configured to identify available time blocks by applying a hierarchical set of appointments rules.

10. (Original) The portable organizer of claim 9, wherein the agent is configured to respond to the hierarchical set of appointment rules from a group consisting of a minimum start time, a maximum end time, an earliest start date, a latest start date, a shortest session duration time, and a longest session duration time.

11. (Currently amended) The portable organizer of claim 8, wherein the assignment record includes an estimated completion time, and the agent is further configured to adjust the estimated completion time in response to a stored difficulty factor.

12. (Currently amended) A portable organizer device comprising:
    a housing sized to be hand held;

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a display in said housing sized to correspond to the palm of a hand; and

circuitry within said housing implementing:

a calendar database;

a communication link configured to access and assignment record on an institutional system, the assignment record describing an assignment characterized by a difficulty factor and an estimated duration or a completion date;

a user interface utilizing said display configured to receive a user schedule constraint;

<u>a sensor responsive to a unique identifying signal from an identification tag attachable to an article and operable to emit said unique identifying signal;</u> and,

an agent configured to create a ~~calender~~ <u>calendar</u> entry for the accessed assignment record in response to the user schedule constraint, and the estimated duration or the completion date<u>; to initiate a notification on the user interface in response to said unique identifying signal;</u> and ~~;~~ <u>to</u> monitor duration of completion of the assignment and to correspondingly adjust the stored difficulty factor.

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13. (Original) The portable organizer of claim 8, wherein the agent is further configured to enter a plurality of calendar entries to complete the assignment.

14. (Currently amended) The portable organizer of claim 13, wherein the agent is further configured to unallocate a later calendar entry of the plurality of ~~calender~~ calendar entries in response to completion of the assignment record.

15. (Original) The portable organizer of claim 13, wherein the agent is further configured to allocate an additional calendar entry associated with the assignment record in response to a failure to complete the assignment record.

16. (Previously amended) A method of updating a calendar database, comprising:

    providing a portable organizer comprising a housing sized to be hand held, a display in said housing sized to correspond to the palm of a hand, and circuitry within said housing, the portable organizer being used in:

    accessing an assignment record on an institutional system, the assignment record describing an assignment characterized by an estimated duration or a completion date;

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receiving a user schedule constraint utilizing said
display;

sensing a unique identifying signal from an
identification tag attachable to an article and operable to emit
said unique identifying signal;

notifying a user in response to sensing said unique
identifying signal, and

creating a calendar entry for the accessed assignment
record in response to the user schedule constraint, and the
estimated duration or the completion date.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

accessing an identification associated with the
assignment record of at least one article required to perform the
assignment; and

associating the identification to the calendar entry.

Claim 18 is canceled.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16 17, wherein
notifying the user in response to sensing the unique identifying
signal is further in response to comparison of the article

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identification associated with the calendar entry and the unique
identifying signal.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) The method of updating and entry in
a calendar database of claim 16, further comprising:

~~sensing a unique identifying signal from an
identification tag attached to an article and operable to emit
said unique identifying signal; and,~~

associating ~~the identification within~~ said unique
identifying signal with an entry in said calendar database.

21. (Original) An educational scheduling system, comprising:

an institutional system containing an assignment record
on an institutional system, the assignment record describing an
assignment characterized by an estimated duration or a completion
date; and

a portable organizer device comprising:

a housing sized to be hand held;

a display in said housing sized to correspond to the
palm of a hand;

a sensor responsive to a unique identifying signal from
an identification tag attachable to an article and operable to
emit said unique identifying signal; and

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circuitry in said housing implementing:

a calendar database;

a communication link configured to access the assignment record on the institutional system;

a user interface utilizing said display configured to receive a user schedule constraint and notify a user in response to sensing said unique identifying signal; and

an agent configured to create a calendar entry for the accessed assignment record in response to the user schedule constraint, and the estimated duration or the completion date.

22. (Original) The educational scheduling system of claim 21, wherein the communication link is further configured to upload to the institutional system a status message pertaining to the calendar entry.